



**U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers  
St. Paul District**

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**Public Affairs**

# Corps Facts

**Lt. Col. Thomas E. O'Hara**

**June 17, 2004**

**Bio-02**

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Lt. Col. Thomas E. O'Hara, Jr., assumed command of the St. Paul District on June 25, 2004, becoming the district's 60th commander and district engineer. Prior to assuming this command, he served as the St. Paul District deputy district engineer, beginning July 23, 2001.

O'Hara was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers in June 1985 out of St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn. After graduating from the Engineer Basic Course in 1987, O'Hara served in a wide variety of field assignments. He served as platoon leader and company executive officer in the 11th Engineer Battalion (Combat)(Heavy). He was then selected to serve as a joint staff intern in the Capabilities Analysis Division, or J8, for one year. After Engineer Officer Advanced Course, O'Hara served as the assistant brigade engineer for 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division during Operations Desert Shield/Storm in Southwest Asia. He then was assigned to the 23rd Engineer Battalion, 1st Armor Division in Friedberg, Germany, where he served as company commander, battalion adjutant and assistant battalion operations officer. O'Hara was then assigned to the United States Military Academy, where he taught systems engineering and engineering management and served in the Operations Research Center.

Most recently, Lt. Col. O'Hara was assigned to XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, N.C., from June 1998 to July 2001. In addition to serving as the 27th Engineer Battalion executive officer, he served as the XVIII Airborne Corps engineer plans officer, engineer operations officer and as the deputy joint engineer, Joint Task Force Bravo, Honduras.

While stationed with the St. Paul District, he served a tour of duty in Afghanistan from April to November in 2002. In Afghanistan, O'Hara served as the deputy joint engineer for Joint Task Force 180 and oversaw all engineer operations in theater.

O'Hara's military education includes Engineer Officer Basic Course, Engineer Officer Advanced Course, Combined Arms Services Staff School, U.S. Army Command and General Staff School and Jumpmaster School. He has a master's degrees in mathematics and operations research from Penn State University and currently holds the academic rank of assistant professor.

O'Hara's military awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with two leaf clusters, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medals, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Senior Parachutist Badge, the Joint Staff Identification Badge and the bronze deFluery medal.